

prepared to have God talk to him face to face. This we must leave for our next.

Some one has said that, "It costs God to make a man. And it costs a man to have God make him." But it is also true that it pays the man tenfold to have God make him.

Man is God's search today. His providences are at work seeking to make men out of princes of Egypt and out of bootblacks and farmer boys.

Nature is as eloquent as ever. The seeking soul of God is just as earnest. And the burning bush and God's calling voice waits at the end of the training. But, how few are willing to wait and learn! God wants his Moseses of every age to share Egypt's learning and civilization. He wants them to know nature, to know their own weakness, the vanity of human power, the falsity of simply human joys and then He is ready to send them down to Egypt to liberate a nation. Wait! Learn! Know God! Then, go!

THE CHURCH THE MIGHTIEST FORTRESS ON EARTH

E. H. SMITH

The tropical jungles have been considered as impenetrable as far as man is concerned. But armies have cut their way thru these jungles, while civilization has been conquering barbarism, as did our own brave boys as they cut their way thru the chaparral and climbed the hills of Santiago. Or as they manned awful war-ships and stood behind awful guns while shooting away the flag of civil and religious tyranny and planting the flag of civil and religious freedom over the ocean of the Orient and the Occident.

Gibraltar's rock too, has long since been famous as a "rock of defence." But it was only impregnable so long as a sufficient garrison remained for its defence, and sufficient provisions for the maintenance of the troops during hostilities, and historians inform us that at different times its defenders have yielded to superior forces and acknowledged their defeat.

The few mountain passes of Greece could be held by a handful of Spartans against an army as did Leonidas at the pass of "Thermoplae" with 300 Spartans and 700 Thespians against "Xerxes" with his almost 2,000,000 soldiers. But eventually these passes were taken when the last brave Spartan had fallen, the kingdom finally bowed to the prophesy, "Whether there be kingdoms they shall fail." After the superstition that has hung over the "Gordon knot" for ages went to the four winds when the keen sword of "Alexander" had severed the same.

And so history has repeated itself again and again as proof "That the word of the Lord endureth forever" as in the "Rough-goat" of Dan. 8:21.

The author of our text says that "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall never pass away." How must the poet's heart have beat high with emotion when he penned these lines:

"How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word."

"The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Let us emphasize the "it." "For other foundations can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ," I Cor. 3:11. "On this rock I have built my church." "Not your church," "My church." What is your church like? "I pray you look quickly and see," does it just fit the rock? or can't you see the "rock" for creeds and minute-books?

Well I thank God for the foundation and the spiritual structure and that membership is made possible and that to get in, you don't need ride a goat, or climb a pole, or go thru a headless barrel. But "to as many as believe on him, to them gave he power to become the sons and daughters of God Almighty." "And all members of that body (church) being many are one body (church,) I Cor. 12:12."

In it there should be no "schisms" (divisions) but "perfectly joined together," I Cor. 1:10. Jesus said in Jno. 17:11, "Father, keep thru thine own name those whom thou hast given me that they may be one as we are" one in faith, one in practice, one in purpose. "There is one body and one spirit, one Lord," for all, one faith for all, one baptism—not dip—for each and all." "On Christ the rock I stand" are you there my brother? if you are listen! "Hold fast till I come," Rev. 2:25. Thank God Jesus is coming. The founder of our holy religion and his word shall judge us in that day. God in the church. Were this statement untrue the church would not have survived the continual mistakes and short comings of the individual members. Paul had his faults and limitations, Peter, too, lowered the banner that should ever have been held high by one so highly honored by the Holy Ghost by flaunting in the face of the church the worn out rituals of the Judaized church. But "God was not dead" for over 1800 years coming up from each mountain flung out from each wave this motto: Our country's for Jesus. He's mighty to save.

Yes God lives, time and again man has attempted to push him off the judgment throne and sit there as Lord of God's heritage, but the church being a spiritual temple of God thru the Holy Ghost just moved on and allowed the hierarchy and priest craft to sit in the dirt or come following after just near enough to look respectable, crying, It's not necessary to keep all the commandments. See! we're "spirit-filled" have the signs following us, the lame walk if not on their feet, they walk in their minds—well, we get there.

"Mighty fortress." "The gates of hell shall not prevail." Hobby-riders have marshaled their cavalry around and around the rock and planted their 13 inch air guns as "angels of light" for as some one has truthfully said, "the devil of Christendom is a myth," as the first description we have of his satanic majesty was when he claimed to meet God on equal terms, see him manufacture snakes as fast as God in Egypt.

Secularism too, has tried to laugh the church out of our American Sabbath and

Lord's day the which means no Lord's day, no church, as the sequel or "ultimatum."

Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Ever since Jesus made the sweeping generalization in our text the devil has been trying to disprove the same, even science has come up to the help of the Lord, to the help against the mighty and appears in her true light as a rational arrangement of facts and principles. The cry to day is "Back to Christ." Well there is plenty of room for the Master said, "In my father's house are many mansions."

The lamb's wife must be purer We would be a strange set of reformers indeed if we were to join the sinner in his sins, much like the tipsy Duke of Norfolk who seeing a drunken friend in the gutter, hiccupped, "My dear friend I can't help you out, but I'll do better, I'll lie down by your side." Too much of that kind of preaching is being done in the world. I am personally acquainted with two preachers who recently sat in a lodge council and listened to the chaplain officiate that had been drunk and playing pool the day before. Such religion as that is no better than counting beads, or the Bible is no better than the Indian's medicine-bag or the Chinese's relic or the superstitious man's horse shoe. Let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

EXPERIENCE IN CONVERSION

W. J. HANNAN

There is a theory of conversion taught in some localities which claims our attention. We regret to acknowledge that the same pernicious doctrine has found favor with a few of our people.

We refer to what is usually spoken of as a "Definite experience in conversion." While we all believe in experimental religion and genuine conversion, we do not believe the theory to which we refer. It is not our object in this article to show precisely what conversion is, but to the contrary we shall aim to show what it is not.

This "Definite experience" is a real experience and is harmless enough in itself, but there are certain conclusions drawn from it which may prove fatal to its subjects. One of the most dangerous conclusions drawn from it is, that the emotional feelings attending it, is the evidence of conversion. Some years ago when we first trusted in Christ for salvation, our mind was darkened by this mystical shadow, as a proof of our conversion. It was not sufficient to satisfy us.

We realized the importance of some positive evidence. If we are saved we should know it. But how shall we know that we are saved? By our feelings? No! because "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." Prov. 28:26.

We don't wish to be fools, neither is a fool's testimony sufficient in matters so important as conversion.

But says one: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Very well, but how? Let the